

One Minute Statement
The Honorable Tim Bishop
October 27, 2005

Supporting Breast Cancer Awareness Month

Mr. Speaker, I rise to address the House for one minute, and request unanimous consent to revise and extend my remarks.

Mr. Speaker, as October draws to a close, Breast Cancer Awareness Month shouldn't be forgotten by November. Raising awareness about breast cancer and expanding education about mammograms and self-examinations should be year-round priorities.

Too many American families have experienced the loss of a loved one or know someone close who has suffered from some form of cancer. Breast cancer in particular remains the leading cause of death among women between the ages of 40 and 55, including my sister-in-law, Abby Irwin, who died at only 41 after a courageous 11-year struggle.

Over 200,000 new cases of breast cancer will be diagnosed this year alone, including 1,100 in Suffolk County, in my district. But the good news is that the survival rate is 96 percent when detected early.

My mother is a 20-year survivor, and one of 2 million survivors nationwide. Like her, many women and their families will be spared thanks to break-through research, technology, and treatment options.

I am proud to have an active breast cancer advisory board back on Long Island that includes leading researchers, advocates, survivors and support personnel. I found their insight and ideas to be invaluable assets.

Mr. Speaker, every day – not just during Breast Cancer Awareness Month – we should do all that we can to encourage the survivors, volunteers, and health care professionals keep up the fight against breast cancer and toward the promise of a cure.